



### Life Course

Childhood Risk Factor

### Brief Name

ACE: Two or More

### Indicator

Percent of children experiencing two or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

### Description

This is the composite score of all ACEs and is a proxy measure for a higher level of toxic stress. Parents are asked to answer questions about these experiences as they relate to their child. This score encompasses nine experiences regarding family stress and violence, developed specifically for the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) by a team of child experts, based on literature about child development.

| WI    | US    | Best  | Worst |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 22.5% | 22.6% | 16.3% | 32.9% |
|       |       | NJ    | OK    |

### Year

2011/2012

### Numerator

Number of children who experienced two or more adverse experiences

### Denominator

Children aged 0-17

### Importance

The ACEs literature has found an increased likelihood of engaging in risky health behaviors and facing poor health outcomes for those with two or more ACEs (Felitti, 1998; Anda, 2010). Recent research has also found that ACEs have an immediate impact on adolescent mental health outcomes; in a study using Medicaid data, only 11 percent of youth (age 12-17) without any ACEs had a mental health problem, compared to 44 percent of youth with five or more ACEs who had a mental health problem (Lucenko, 2012).

### Limitations

Though there is substantial evidence of the potential negative impact that ACEs may have on an individual, resilience factors can mitigate or completely prevent negative outcomes.

This data cannot be compared to adult ACE scores or distributions.

### Source

NSCH 2011/12. Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved from [www.childhealthdata.org](http://www.childhealthdata.org). Felitti, Vincent J., et al. "Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14.4 (1998): 245-258. Anda, Robert F., et al. "Building a framework for global surveillance of the public health implications of adverse childhood experiences." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 39.1 (2010): 93-98. Lucenko, B., et al. "Adverse childhood experiences associated with behavioral health problems in adolescents." Findings from administrative data for youth age 12-17. Department of Social and Health Services, Washington State (2012).